CANUCK LAW
Reporting That You're Not Getting Elsewhere (Do Your Own Research To Verify)

NOVEMBER 26, 2018 BY RONNIE

Unifor Denies Crawling Into Bed With Government

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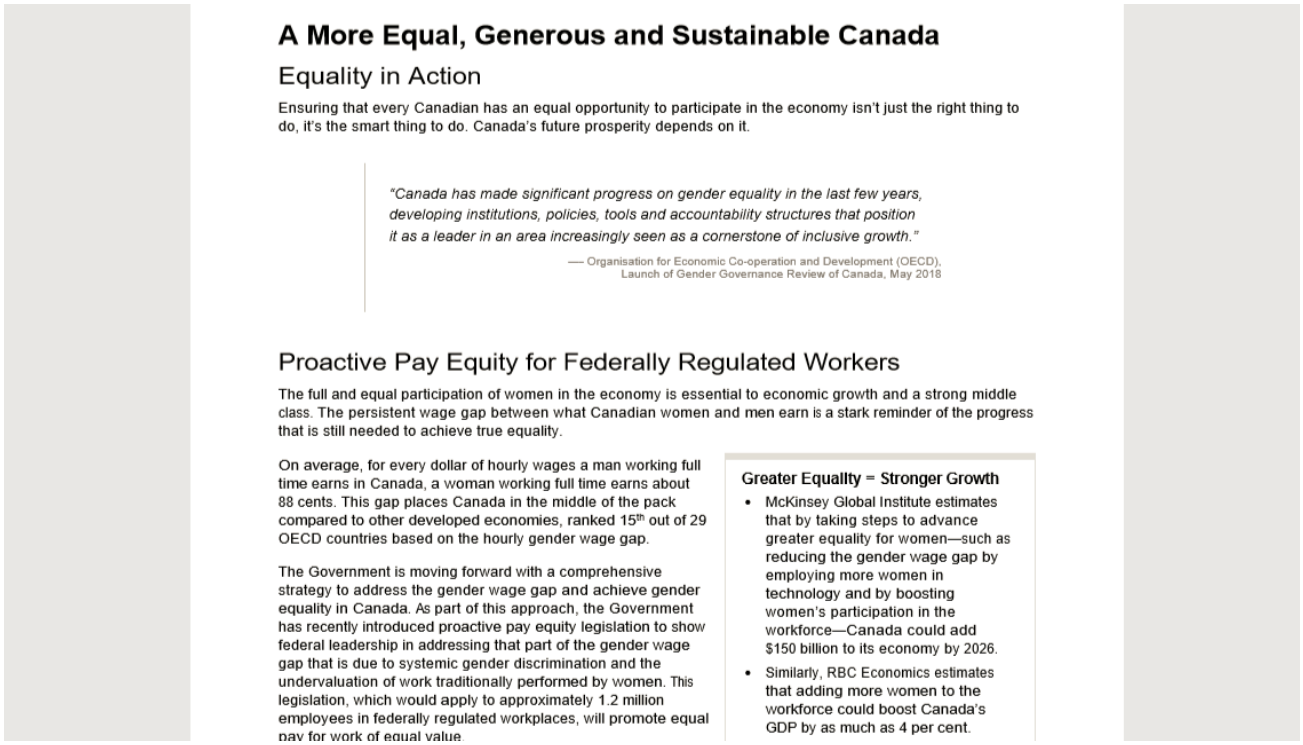
Search Canada.ca
Jobs
Immigration
Travel
Business
Benefits
Health
Taxes
More services
Home
Fall Economic Statement 2018
Chapter 2 - Continued Progress For The Middle Class
Table of Contents
Previous
Next
For the past three years, the Government has been working to deliver on its commitments to Canadians, while helping to strengthen and grow the economy today, and for the long term.
Of the 289 commitments made in November 2015, 97 have been completed, and 189 have had action taken and progress made(for more information on results, see Annex 2: Delivering Results for Canadians).
For Canadians, these commitments represent more than promises made and fulfilled. The investments the Government has made are being felt across the country—especially by hard-working middle class families.
By this time next year, a typical middle class family of four will receive, on average, about $2,000 more each year, as a result of the middle class tax cut and the Canada Child Benefit. Because of these changes, more families will be able to pay for things like healthy food, back-to-school clothes, and new winter boots for

(The new release from the Federal Government)



A More Equal, Generous and Sustainable Canada

Equality in Action

Ensuring that every Canadian has an equal opportunity to participate in the economy isn't just the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do. Canada's future prosperity depends on it.

> *"Canada has made significant progress on gender equality in the last few years, developing institutions, policies, tools and accountability structures that position it as a leader in an area increasingly seen as a cornerstone of inclusive growth."*
>
> — Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Launch of Gender Governance Review of Canada, May 2018

Proactive Pay Equity for Federally Regulated Workers

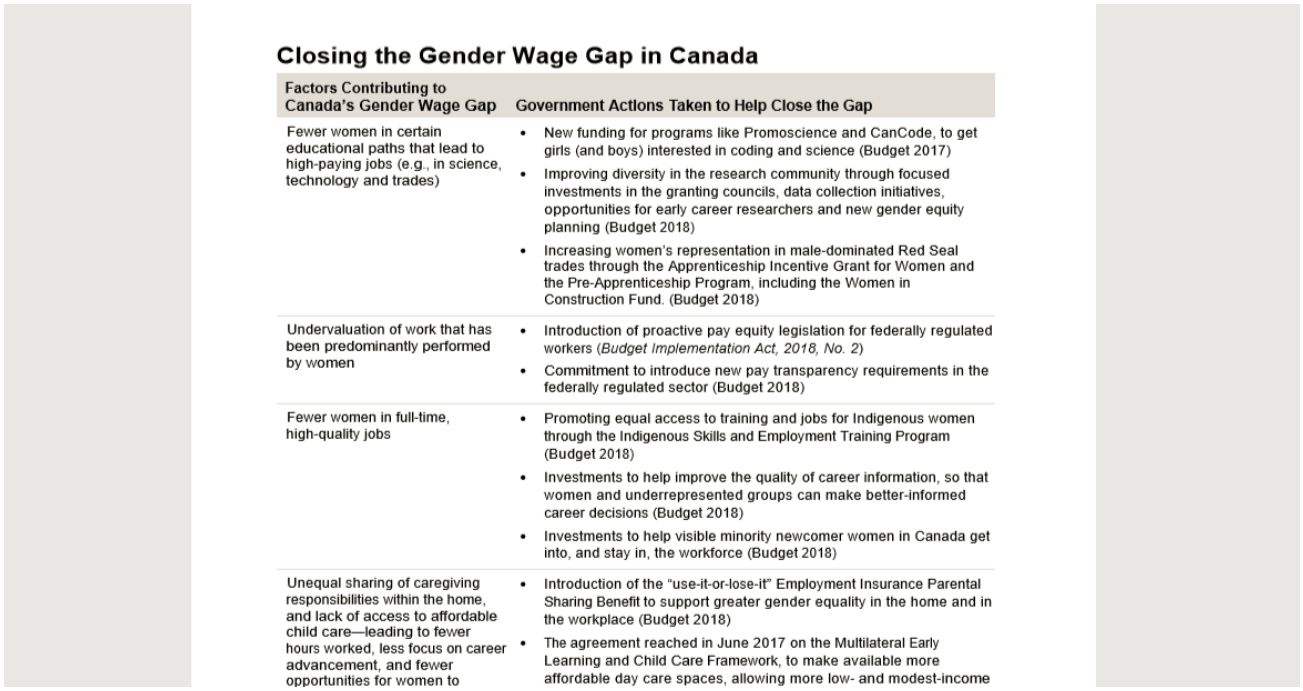
The full and equal participation of women in the economy is essential to economic growth and a strong middle class. The persistent wage gap between what Canadian women and men earn is a stark reminder of the progress that is still needed to achieve true equality.

On average, for every dollar of hourly wages a man working full time earns in Canada, a woman working full time earns about 88 cents. This gap places Canada in the middle of the pack compared to other developed economies, ranked 15th out of 29 OECD countries based on the hourly gender wage gap.

The Government is moving forward with a comprehensive strategy to address the gender wage gap and achieve gender equality in Canada. As part of this approach, the Government has recently introduced proactive pay equity legislation to show federal leadership in addressing that part of the gender wage gap that is due to systemic gender discrimination and the undervaluation of work traditionally performed by women. This legislation, which would apply to approximately 1.2 million employees in federally regulated workplaces, will promote equal pay for work of equal value.

Greater Equality = Stronger Growth

- McKinsey Global Institute estimates that by taking steps to advance greater equality for women—such as reducing the gender wage gap by employing more women in technology and by boosting women's participation in the workforce—Canada could add $150 billion to its economy by 2026.
- Similarly, RBC Economics estimates that adding more women to the workforce could boost Canada's GDP by as much as 4 per cent.



Closing the Gender Wage Gap in Canada

Factors Contributing to Canada's Gender Wage Gap	Government Actions Taken to Help Close the Gap
Fewer women in certain educational paths that lead to high-paying jobs (e.g., in science, technology and trades)	• New funding for programs like Promoscience and CanCode, to get girls (and boys) interested in coding and science (Budget 2017) • Improving diversity in the research community through focused investments in the granting councils, data collection initiatives, opportunities for early career researchers and new gender equity planning (Budget 2018) • Increasing women's representation in male-dominated Red Seal trades through the Apprenticeship Incentive Grant for Women and the Pre-Apprenticeship Program, including the Women in Construction Fund. (Budget 2018)
Undervaluation of work that has been predominantly performed by women	• Introduction of proactive pay equity legislation for federally regulated workers (*Budget Implementation Act, 2018, No. 2*) • Commitment to introduce new pay transparency requirements in the federally regulated sector (Budget 2018)
Fewer women in full-time, high-quality jobs	• Promoting equal access to training and jobs for Indigenous women through the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program (Budget 2018) • Investments to help improve the quality of career information, so that women and underrepresented groups can make better-informed career decisions (Budget 2018) • Investments to help visible minority newcomer women in Canada get into, and stay in, the workforce (Budget 2018)
Unequal sharing of caregiving responsibilities within the home, and lack of access to affordable child care—leading to fewer hours worked, less focus on career advancement, and fewer opportunities for women to	• Introduction of the "use-it-or-lose-it" Employment Insurance Parental Sharing Benefit to support greater gender equality in the home and in the workplace (Budget 2018) • The agreement reached in June 2017 on the Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework, to make available more affordable day care spaces, allowing more low- and modest-income

(Not surprising, the endless pandering about the "wage gap")

1. The Media Is Not Loyal To The Public

Truth is essential in society, but the situation in Canada is worse than people imagine. In Canada (and elsewhere), the mainstream media, periodicals, and fact-checkers are

subsidized, though they deny it. Post Media controls most outlets in Canada, and many "independents" have ties to Koch/Atlas. Real investigative journalism is needed, and some pointers are provided.

2. Fall 2018 Economic Update

economic.update.2018

The good part starts on page 40 of the Update. It has to do with "Support For Canadian Journalism"

Here is the problem that the Canadian Government identifies:

> In recent years, changes in technology and in the way that Canadians consume news have **made it difficult for many news outlets to find and maintain financially sustainable business models.** At a time when people increasingly get their news online, and share news and other content through social media, many communities have also been left without local news outlets to tell their stories. Concerns have been expressed that, **without government intervention, there may be a decline in the quantity and quality of journalism available to Canadians, including a significant loss of local news coverage**.

> In November 2018, the Prime Minister, together with other world leaders, **committed to take action to support a strong and independent news sector in the digital age.** The Government recognizes the vital role that local journalism plays in communities all across the country, and is committed to finding ways to help keep people, and communities, connected through local news providers

Yes, that is correct. The Government realizes that in modern times, the old format of news (large offices and staff), has become obsolete, and financially unviable. This is particularly true in the age where anyone with a laptop and a camera can post online and gain a substantial following.

CanuckLaw itself is run on a shoestring budget, with little expenses. So yes, it is easy to

sympathise with those who have had a lengthy career in media.

However, this is the new reality. Media itself is reducing the barriers to entry where literally anyone can be a contributor online. Rather than maintaining a monopoly (or near monopoly) on news, major outlets are facing strong competition from a population who can drastically undercut it. Further, these people will have no loyalty to any political party or government. This is good for a free and open media.

However, the Federal Liberals have decided that propping up the media financially is a better idea.

Access to Charitable Tax Incentives for Eligible News Organizations

Budget 2018 announced that the Government would explore new models that would enable private giving and philanthropic support for trusted, professional, non-profit journalism, including local news. To that end, the **Government intends to introduce a new category of qualified donee, for non-profit journalism organizations that produce a wide variety of news and information of interest to Canadians. As qualified donees, eligible non-profit journalism organizations would be able to issue official donation receipts,** which allows donors to benefit from tax incentives for charitable giving (including the Charitable Donations Tax Credit for individuals and deductions for corporations). As qualified donees, these organizations **would also be eligible to receive funding from registered charities.**

A New Refundable Tax Credit to Support News Organizations

To further support news journalism in Canada, the Government **intends to introduce a new refundable tax credit for qualifying news organizations.** This new measure will aim to support Canadian news organizations that produce a wide variety of news and information of interest to Canadians. **The refundable credit will support labour costs associated with producing original news content** and will generally be available to both non-profit and for-profit news organizations. **An independent panel will be established from the news and journalism community to define eligibility for this tax credit**, as well as provide advice on other measures. Once established, the effective date of the refundable tax credit will be set for January 1, 2019.

A New Non-Refundable Tax Credit for Subscriptions to Canadian Digital News Media

> To support Canadian digital news media organizations in achieving a more financially sustainable business model, the Government intends to introduce a new **temporary, non-refundable 15-per-cent tax credit** for qualifying subscribers of eligible digital news media. In total**, the proposed access to tax incentives for charitable giving, refundable tax credit for labour costs and non-refundable tax credit for subscriptions will cost the federal government an estimated $595 million over the next five years. Additional details on these measures will be provided in Budget 2019**

Yes, the government will be spending about $595 million over 5 years, $119 million annually, to prop up dying media outlets.

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The story is explained by Candice Malcolm, but in a nutshell, Unifor, the union which represents — among others — 13,000 media workers, is officially committing to opposing the Federal Conservative Party.

This of course raises a huge red flag. A union that will be taking $120 million/year to subsidise failing media outlets is officially opposing the government's main opposition party.

In fact, this arguably violates the Conflict of Interest Act. A political party using their power

to award public funds to an industry, namely media, who can promote their interests.

3. Conflict Of Interest

> 4 For the purposes of this Act, a public office holder is in a conflict of interest when he or she exercises an official power, duty or function that provides an opportunity to further his or her private interests or those of his or her relatives or friends or to improperly further another person's private interests.
> Marginal note:

> General duty
> 5 Every public office holder shall arrange his or her private affairs in a manner that will prevent the public office holder from being in a conflict of interest.
> Marginal note:

> Decision-making
> 6 (1) No public office holder shall make a decision or participate in making a decision related to the exercise of an official power, duty or function if the public office holder knows or reasonably should know that, in the making of the decision, he or she would be in a conflict of interest.

It sounds harsh. However, from the literal wording in the Conflict of Interest Act, the subsides and political allegiance do appear to violate it.

4. Interview With Howard Law Of Unifor

On Friday, November 23, Unifor representative Howard Law did return a phone call for an interview. Here is a summary of that interview.

(a) The subsidies are meant to keep jobs from being lost, and to prop up sections of the media that are becoming unviable with technology changes.
(b) There is no deal of any kind to provide favourable coverage to any political party.
(c) Unifor, the union, promotes progressive causes all the time. They do not oppose any

party because of financial considerations like what people suggest here.
(d) The media workers will continue to operate objectively.

While Mr. Law's comments are reasonable on the surface, there is still no question that this at least *appears* to be a form of bribery. Governments handing millions of dollars to a friendly media reeks of propaganda and corruption.

But for now we will wait and see what comes of this.

CANADA, CANADIAN BILLS, CONSTITUTIONAL, CORPORATE, FREE SPEECH, GENERAL INTERVIEWS, MEDIA